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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U.S. D. A.

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Fall-Sown Crops in Good Condition

Seedings of winter wheat and other fall-sown crops were about up to intentions on January 1 and were in good condition...soil moisture mostly satisfactory; irrigation water supplies apparently adequate. Acreage sown to winter wheat is about a seventh larger than average.

More Wheat On Farms Than Last Year

Wheat stocks on farms January 1 were estimated at 339.3 million bushels compared with 335.4 million year ago. Current stocks are down from average by about one-tenth. Disappearance from farms October through January, 142 million bushels, was 5 million bushels smaller than year earlier. Present stocks are 34.4 percent of the 1951 production. Stocks year ago were 32.9 percent of production; 10-year average at this season has been about 36 percent of production.

Corn Stocks 1.9 Billion—Year ago 2.1 Billion

Corn stocks on farms totaled 1.9 billion bushels, compared with 2.1 billion (revised) year ago and 2 billion average. Current stocks are 72 percent of the 1951 production, compared with 76 percent a year ago. Disappearance from farms October through December amounted to 1 billion bushels. This was somewhat above the average for the quarter and reflects continued heavy feed requirements and the unusually large amount of soft corn harvested.

Other Grain Stocks on Farms January 1

Oats on farms, 841.9 million bushels. Year ago, 879.7 million; average, 821.3 million. Disappearance from farms last 3 months, 261 million bushels, or an increase of about 10 million bushels from a year earlier.

Barley, 124.3 million bushels. Year ago, 139.8 million; average, 150.3 million. Disappearance from farms last 3 months, 47 million bushels. This is higher than in the same period of the past 2 years.

Rye, 6.5 million bushels. Year ago, 6.8 million; average, 13.1 million. Disappearance from farms last 3 months, 3.9 million bushels. This compares with 5.1 million year earlier.

Soybeans, 103.4 million bushels. Year ago, 101.7 million; average, 56.9 million. Disappearance from farms last 3 months, 180 million bushels, down a little from the record 199 million year earlier.

More Hay Than Last Year

Hay stocks on farms January 1 totaled 73.4 million tons, nearly 4 million tons more than on hand a year earlier. Increases over last year are in the Northern States east of the Rocky Mountains. Stocks are smaller than a year ago in most of the southern, southwestern, and far western States.

Heavy Feeding Drawing Down Grain Reserves

Supplies of feed grains are adequate for current livestock feeding. Requirements, however, will exceed 1951 production. This will mean sharply reduced carry-over stocks next fall. Movement of feed grains from farms past 3 months has been heavy—corn movement about 4 percent above average and more than in any last-quarter period except in '43, '49, and '50. In the Western Corn Belt much corn of poor keeping quality had to be fed quickly to salvage it; and more of it had to be fed at a feeding to obtain desired livestock gains.

Above Average Orange Crop

Orange production, 1951-52 season, is forecast at 117.2 million boxes slightly more than the '50-51 crop of 116.8 million and 18 percent above the 10-year average of 99 million boxes. A slight increase from a month ago in the Florida crop was more than offset by declines in California, Arizona, and Texas.

Grapefruit Crop Smaller Than Average

The grapefruit forecast of 39.9 million boxes is 14 percent below last season's crop and 21 percent below average. Only about 8.6 million boxes of the current crop had been marketed to January 1, leaving 31.4 million boxes for the remainder of the season. A year ago 13 million boxes had been moved, leaving 33.6 million boxes marketed after January 1 of last year.

More Tangerines, Fewer Lemons

Florida's tangerine crop, forecast at 5 million boxes, is 200 thousand boxes above the '50-51 crop. California lemon crop, at 12.8 million boxes is down 100 thousand boxes from December 1 and 600 thousand below the '50-51 crop. December and early January freezes hurt this year's crop.

Milk Production Steady

The 8.4 billion pounds of milk produced in December was slightly above the '40-49 average output for the month, but was 2 percent below the December total of a year earlier. December production was only 3 percent below the record high December output set in '49. Output for the entire year was 119.6 billion compared with 120.6 billion in 1950 and 117.4 billion pounds '40-49 average.

Record Egg Output

The 4.6 billion eggs laid in December totaled 6 percent more than year earlier and was record for the month. Output was higher than a year earlier in all regions of the country. Last year's output, 60.3 billion

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Nov. 15 1951	Dec. 15 1951	Dec. 15 1951
Wheat, bu.dol.	2.19	2.22	2.43
Corn, bu.dol.	1.62	1.69	1.77
Peanuts, lb.ct.	10.1	10.4	13.2
Cotton, lb.ct.	41.00	40.34	34.10
Potatoes, bu.dol.	1.74	1.93	1.83
Hogs, 100 lb.dol.	18.00	17.60	21.50
Beef cattle, 100 lb.dol.	28.10	27.50	19.90
Veal calves, 100 lb.dol.	31.60	31.30	22.30
Lambs, 100 lb.dol.	29.00	28.50	21.90
Butterfat, lb.ct.	1/ 67.5	1/ 69.1	77.2
Milk, whsle., 100 lb.dol.	1/ 4.68	1/2/ 4.77	4.83
Chickens, live, lb.ct.	23.2	23.4	31.5
Eggs, doz.ct.	1/ 48.3	1/ 44.1	53.2

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Preliminary.

eggs, compares with 60 billion in '50 and 52.2 billion 10-year average.

High Rate of Lay

Annual rate of lay per layer on hand during '51 was 170 eggs. Rate in '50 was 167; average, 150 eggs.

2 Percent More Layers

Nation's laying flock averaged 403,016,000 layers in December, up 2 percent from year earlier. Potential layers (including all pullets) January 1 totaled 437,381,000. This was 2 percent more than a year earlier but 3 percent below average.

Lower Egg Prices Last Month

Farmers averaged 51.1 cents dozen for eggs mid-December, compared with 57.7 year earlier. Eggs declined 5.4 cents a dozen from mid-November to mid-December, compared with an increase of 11.9 cents the previous year.

Poultry Prices

Live weight chickens at mid-December brought about the same price as in mid-November—23.4 cents a pound in December; 23.2 cents in November. Year ago in December, chickens brought 22.3 cents a pound. Turkeys averaged farmers 39.6 cents a pound live weight mid-December, compared with 34.3 cents year earlier.

Poultry Feeding Less Favorable

Egg-feed and chicken-feed price relationships were less favorable in December than a year ago. The turkey-feed ratio was slightly more favorable than last year. Poultry ration averaged \$4.22 per 100 lbs. compared with \$4.12 in mid-November and \$3.74 in December 1950.

Big Hatch of Chicks Last Month

The 82.7 million chicks hatched in December was 21 percent larger than in December 1950 and was 90 percent above the '45-49 average. A large hatch is also in prospect for January...18 percent more eggs in incubators than a year ago.

More Sheep and Lambs On Feed

Sheep and lambs on feed January 1 numbered about 3.9 million head, 502 thousand more than last year. First increase over previous year since '45. Although the largest since '49, the number is still relatively small—about 30 to 45 percent below the number on feed in the years '35 to '47. Peak of nearly 7 million head was reached in '43.

Smaller Spring Pig Crop

Hog production appears to be turning down, after increasing for 5 consecutive years. Farmers' intentions point to 8 percent fewer sows to farrow this spring than a year ago. Pigs saved last spring, 62 million; fall crop, 40.2 million; total crop last year about 102.1 million head. Smaller pig crop this spring will affect slaughter and production next fall.

Only Moderate Declines Seen In Cattle Prices

Prices of cattle declined moderately late in '51. With demand for meat expected to continue strong, prospective supplies of cattle do not point to further material weakness in cattle prices. May be some seasonal decline in prices of top grades of steers as marketings increase through the winter and spring.

11 Percent More Cattle On Feed

The 5,094,000 head of cattle on feed in the U.S. January 1 was up 11 percent from a year ago and was the largest

number on record. Numbers are up in the North Central States 6 percent; in the Western States, 24 percent.

Nation's Economy Continues Stable

The Nation's economy has continued generally stable the past few months with some signs of a moderate pick up in business activity for the fourth quarter of '51. Increased output of defense goods has been offset to some extent by reduced output for non-defense uses.

Prices Received, Prices Paid

Prices farmers were receiving at mid-December averaged 7 percent higher than a year earlier but were 3 percent below the peak reached last February. Prices paid by farmers (including interest, taxes, and farm wage rates) likewise were 7 percent higher than a year earlier. From mid-November to mid-December prices received rose 1 percent; prices paid (including interest, taxes, and wages) registered no change.

Higher Farm Income

Farmers' cash receipts from marketings totaled 29.8 billion dollars first 11 months of '51, topping same period in the previous year by 15 percent. Receipts from livestock were up 23 percent; from crops, 3 percent. Cash receipts for December were expected to be about 3 billion dollars, 8 percent higher than a year earlier.

Farm Worker Numbers At New Low

Work to be done on farms had reached a seasonal low late in December. People working on farms (including hired and farm family workers) totaled only about 6.5 million, fewer by 4 percent than a year earlier and the lowest of record. Total at work in November was 8.9 million people.

Total Civilian Employment, 61 Million

U. S. civilians at work in December totaled 61 million. This compares with 60.3 million in December a year ago. Only 1.7 million civilians were unemployed last month compared with 2.2 million without work a year ago.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	December 1951
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	305
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	284
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	107
Wholesale prices of food.....	'10-14=100	1/ 293
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	2/ 299
Farm wage rates.....	'10-14=100	3/ 498
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	2/ 569
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Dec. 1950	Jan.-Dec. 1951
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	120.6	119.6
Eggs, (bil.).....	60.0	60.3
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	4/ 6448	4/ 5885
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4/ 492	4/ 427
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	4/ 9282	4/ 10206
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	4/ 16842	4/ 17062
1/ Week ended nearest 15th of the month.		
2/ November figure.		
3/ January 1 adjusted for seasonal variation.		
4/ Jan.-Nov. under Federal inspection.		